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CLAC

**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

**Report to
Governor Mark Dayton &
The Minnesota State Legislature**

November 15, 2013

Engaging the Latino community
through public service since 1978



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

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Letter from the Board Chair & Executive Director

Our challenges, our accomplishments, our goals for the future

Dear Governor Dayton and State Legislators,

During FY2013, the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) structured several strategic alliances to address the disparities experienced by Latinos in Minnesota. Such alliances are essential to be effective in our work to improve the socioeconomic conditions of the Latino community because they complement our limited resources. We have primarily focused on education because we consider it to be pivotal to making progress in other areas of interest to the Latino community and Minnesota. Still, we have taken steps to address economic development challenges and opportunities as well as those in immigration, health and justice.

CLAC took advantage of the opportunity granted by Governor Dayton to work directly with several Department Commissioners in carrying out the duties of our constituting Statute. This collaboration and the one we have been building with the community, local government, nonprofits and the private sector have made a significant difference in the degree and number of accomplishments of our agency. The Accomplishments section in the

CLAC 2013 Annual Report attests to the leverage value of this strategy. Another facet of CLAC's strategy has been to create a wide-spread awareness of the contribution potential of the Latino community. If other communities and our own are not fully conscious of this potential, there is a serious risk of a one-dimensional and static focus on Latino need. The rapidly increasing relevance of the Latino community in terms of population growth and political influence make it essential for all of us to see not only the disparities but also the positive outcome towards which we can all work together. In keeping with American tradition, CLAC has chosen to see a half-full glass and not a half-empty one. CLAC has also committed to convey this choice of perception to all the allies with whom we are working.

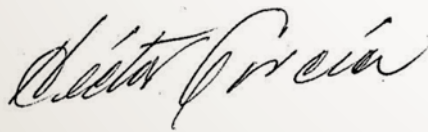
We are still a long way from being able to persuasively measure the results of the strategies and actions CLAC has been following and recommending. Yet, the tide is turning in our favor. The letters of recognition sent to CLAC, the complimentary verbal comments expressed to us by respected leaders, and the decisions by some of them to become our partners confirm that we are moving in the right direction.

The disparities in Minnesota are chronic and have seemed intractable in spite of Minnesota's proverbial civic-mindedness and philanthropy. CLAC is convinced that the strategies it is implementing—"Cradle to Career" (to use the term of one of our partners) and full community-team support—are the missing elements in reducing and, eventually, eliminating the education disparity. We believe that this systemic and community-team approach will also be effective in addressing other Minnesota disparities.

Here again, CLAC follows the principle of both... and, not either... or. In order to pursue these strategies, CLAC has relied on research and the generosity of the state, not only on our alliances and innovation. This will be evident in the Report's comments on the Hispanic Advocacy & Community Empowerment through Research (HACER) and Tor Dahl and Associates (TDA) studies as well as our state appropriation and the Legacy Fund grant.

The Board and the staff at CLAC thank you and our partners for the opportunity to present the 2013 Annual Report for evaluation and critique.

Sincerely,



Hector Garcia
Executive Director



Krystell Escobar
Board Chair

Council Mission and Goals

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council was created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1978 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 3.9223, subdivision 3.

Since its creation, CLAC has advised the governor and state legislature on matters pertinent to the Latino community. It has held community engagement forums throughout the state to communicate its services and gather information from the Latino communities to be conveyed to the governor, legislators and the public at large.

CLAC has promoted the interests of the community in health, education, employment and business development, housing, incarceration and immigration by making recommendations for new legislation and facilitating the creation of various groups. It has been a conduit to state government for organizations of Latinos in the state. It has publicized the conditions and achievements of Latinos in the state. It has referred Latinos to state agencies and programs that serve their needs. It has also facilitated collaboration

and communication between the Latino community and local and federal government units and private organizations. It has carried out studies to address the needs of the Latino community.

The needs of the Latino community remain significant in particular because of its high proportion of immigrants and the ongoing marginalization of portions of the community.

In pursuit of excellence, CLAC's Board and staff members created the CLAC Operational Excellence Plan and Biennium Annual Calendar (now Annual Calendar) as well as the CLAC Policies and Procedures Manual in 2008. This increased the efficiency and effectiveness with which CLAC operates and helped us to more effectively schedule our work in sync with the Minnesota legislative cycle. Through this alignment the Council improved its capability to serve its charter and nine legislative goals. The Council calendar is structured with a quarterly focus. This is then further segmented into a monthly focus that guides the work of Board members, staff, and other partners.

The Action Plan is designed to serve its charter and nine legislative goals, which define the Council's

areas of responsibility. For each area of responsibility objectives are established. Based on the objectives, actions are defined. The actions are implemented by the Executive Director and the staff.

The responsibilities of staff include engagement of the Latino communities, research and analysis, and advice and reporting to the governor and legislators. Board of Directors provides oversight of actions and outputs, including approval of areas of interest selected, focus and legislative recommendations.

Additionally, 11 Board members serve as representatives for their congressional districts and the Latino community at large; there are also 4 nonvoting members representing the Legislature, who ensure connectivity to the state's interests. Staff and Board members capture the collective voice of the Latino community and convey Latino contributions, issues, and solutions to the governor and legislators. The Council staff and Board members actively collaborate to fully implement the action plan in fulfillment of legislative goals and charter, which culminates in this Annual Report.

Summary of CLAC report to Minnesota Governor & Legislature

CLAC Executive Director Hector Garcia 11/15/2013

Minnesota Statute 3.9223 charters the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) to be a bridge of communication and collaboration between Latinos in Minnesota and state/local/federal government as well as with the private, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors. Our duties are to advise Minnesota's Governor and Legislators on matters of importance to Latinos, to recommend legislation based on research done on such matters, to be a liaison for the Latino community, to publicize their achievements, and to help improve their socioeconomic conditions.

CLAC has performed the above duties and roles during FY 2013. While doing so, CLAC has addressed the challenge of the chronic disparities in its key areas of interest by using several strategies, which CLAC designed for this purpose and which are described in this document.

Our top priority during FY2013 was to enhance the educational aspirations and achievement of Latinos; the second priority was their economic development. CLAC connects needs and solutions to support a strong Latino community and a thriving economy for the entire state of Minnesota. In deference to its limited resources, CLAC relies on strategic alliances, its culture/language proficiency, community connectivity and innovative approaches to disparities.

Advice to Governor, Legislature, Local/Federal Government, nonprofit and private sector

Following personal instructions from Governor Dayton, CLAC has addressed its advice on reducing Latino disparities and increasing the contribution of Latinos to the state's economy to Commissioners and staff in the following agencies: Administration, Agriculture, Commerce, Corrections, Education, Employment and Economic Development, Health, Human Rights, Human Services, Labor & Industry, Management & Budget, Office of Higher Education, Public Safety, Revenue and Transportation.

• OTHER STATE ENTITIES, TO WHICH CLAC HAS PROVIDED ADVICE TO CHAIR, PRESIDENT, CHANCELLOR, DIRECTOR AND STAFF:

Explore MN
Metropolitan Council
Minnesota Historical Society
MnSCU, including HTCC and SPCC
Office of Legislative Auditor
Secretary of State
State Demographer
State Economist
United Way
U of M School of Journalism
University of Minnesota Extension

CLAC has also discussed collaborative projects with executive directors of Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, Black Minnesotans, Indian Affairs; Ombudsperson for Spanish Speaking Families; the Arts Board; and the Perpich Center for Arts Education.

• LATINO COMMUNITY:
CLAC has carried out statewide interactive community engagement, education and immigration reform forums spanning Duluth, Faribault, Long Prairie, St. Paul, Woodbury, Mankato, St. James, Willmar, Brooklyn Park, and Rochester. CLAC has collaborated with the following Latino organizations: Asamblea de Derechos Civiles, Centro Campesino, CLUES, HACER, Latino Economic Development Center, Mesa Latina, MMEP and others on various projects.

• LOCAL FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:
CLAC has provided advice to Mayors of St. Paul, Edina, Burnsville and Rochester on how to optimize presence of Latinos in their cities and reduce disparities. CLAC has provided advice to superintendents and staff in various school districts including Minneapolis, Rochester and St. Paul. CLAC has presented broader perspective on education and immigration reform to MN Members of Congress and staff.

• PRIVATE, NONPROFIT and PHILANTHROPIC SECTORS:
CLAC has advised the Metropolitan Business Plan, Greater MSP, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo Bank as well as dozens of Latino executives at Minnesota's major corporations, the Minneapolis and St. Paul Foundations, EducationEvolving, Generation Next, Growth & Justice, Minnesota Humanities Center, MinneMinds Parents United, and United Way.

NOTE: *Please see Accomplishments Section for actual and unfolding results of above advice, recommendations, presentations, events and dialogue.*



Accomplishments 2013

“... I have worked with Mr. Garcia and the council on numerous occasions. This collaboration has helped to inform how the policies we create will affect the Chicano Latino population in the greater Rochester area, and across our state. I have been impressed by the knowledge and passion that Mr. Garcia has for the work of the council. Mr. Garcia’s advocacy for a close examination of educational opportunities for Chicano Latinos, as well as a focus on closing the achievement gap in Minnesota, is an outstanding example of the positive work the council is doing...”

Senator Carla Nelson

► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CLAC has promoted among leaders in all sectors a new paradigm in their perspective of Latinos in Minnesota; it is based on the importance in the global economy of the language/culture proficiency and connectivity to our countries of origin. CLAC has also leveraged its network of strategic alliances to connect economic opportunities to the untapped resources of Latino employees and businesses. It is important to also note that Latino purchasing power in Minnesota represents 2.1 billion dollars.

- Head of Tourism department at U of M Extension has joined meetings convened by CLAC at Explore MN to discuss how Latino and other cultures can make the Twin Cities more appealing to national and foreign tourists.

- Meetings from Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Commissioner resulted in visit by MDA Asst. to Rochester/Mexico meeting and ongoing discussions on how Latino organization can channel loans to Latino borrowers.

- Meetings from Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) resulted in discussions on how to create a Latino construction company that will be capable of taking advantage of the DBE contracts that are offered but not benefiting the Latino communities. Former Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Commissioner, with whom CLAC ED had several conversations is now at Kraus Anderson (KA); both had conversations on project to have KA mentor and collaborate with Latino construction company as Mortenson did with African American Thor Co. CLAC invited MnDOT Latino representatives, LEDC and Hispanic Contractor Assn. (HCA) to meet with KA. HCA is now discussing similar project with Mortenson.

- CLAC has advised the Metropolitan Council on “cultural corridors” and, with CLUES assistance and venue, discussed with them and Latino leaders how to engage Latino community and construction workers in its plans for the future community, employees, and construction companies.

- CLAC co-sponsored and helped organize “Immigration and the Economy” by Deputy Secretary Department of Homeland Security and “Latino Education Experts Panel” presentation at Globe University.

- MnDOT, Department of Public Safety (DPS) and CLAC planned, coordinated and held two training sessions for Latino drivers of vehicles to transport heavy-equipment in Woodbury and Mankato on 3/13 and 3/23/13, respectively.

- Meetings with DEED Commissioner, resulted in a plan for quarterly meetings between CLAC other State Councils and DEED Deputy Commissioner Bauerly.

- The Metropolitan Business Plan and Greater MSP have invited CLAC to participate in planning discussions with them as well as the annual events of Greater MSP and Itasca Project. CLAC was able, then, to participate in discussions relevant to Latino and other minority /American Indian communities and to invite the other Councils.

- Various agencies, organizations, including DEED, MDE, MnDOT, DPS, Met Council, U of M, St. Paul College, Hennepin Technical Community College, CLUES, LEDC, Hispanic Contractors Assn. and Representative Tim Mahoney attended a CLAC convened meeting to propose collaborative to address the disparities in economic development of Latinos.

- CLAC participates in “EverybodyIn” initiative to address minority unemployment in Ramsey and Hennepin Counties (<http://www.rcwib.org/aboutus/brc.htm>).

CLAC will continue to make access possible to economic opportunity for Latinos, such as facilitating a relationship between a powerful construction corporation and a Latino construction business so the latter can mature and participate in government contracts and pursuing the creation of a Latino processing plant in Southern Minnesota with funding appropriated in the last legislative session.



"...I am proud of the work that our agencies have done together to promote community and parental engagement and educational programs to assist Latino students. Under your leadership and dedication, the council has been committed to working with schools in order to promote academic achievement for all Latino students. I strongly support the important work that CLAC does for the citizens of Minnesota...."

Dr. Brenda Cassellius MDE
Commissioner

"Hector Garcia and his staff at CLAC are essential MinneMinds coalition members, providing constant counsel and feedback to ensure that our work helps bring support to not just Latinos but all our most at-risk populations. They are a great asset to us and the State of Minnesota."

Frank Forsberg
Chair, MinneMinds
Senior Vice President of
Systems Change & Innovation
Greater Twin Cities United Way

"...I so appreciated your willingness to help bring our listeners into this important conversation about the achievement gap, the reforms that could reduce that gap, and why we all should care. (Luke, our young producer, said that was the most interesting interview he had recorded for us in 3 years..."

Marti Erickson, Ph.D. Consultant
& Director Emerita, Irving
B. Harris Training Programs,
University of Minnesota

► EDUCATION

The greatest concern to CLAC, as it is to all state/local government and private sectors, is the ranking by U.S. DOE of Minnesota Latino HS graduation rate and achievement gap as the lowest in the nation along with our highest demographic growth among all the state's communities, in the context of a quickly-aging workforce. During FY2013, CLAC used its own and HACER's research while leveraging its broad strategic alliances to become a respected voice in the media and decision-making tables to contribute innovative solutions to this urgent issue.

- Building on its own research, CLAC hired through a Legacy Fund grant the organization HACER (Hispanic Advocacy & Community Empowerment through Research) to carry out a more in-depth study, which was submitted in December 2012: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES: THE EDUCATION OF LATINOS IN MINNESOTA REPORT (Appendix).

Using HACER's elements of success, identified in programs for Latino students, CLAC started pilot projects in Humboldt HS and Northfield HS. OHE, HACER, MHC and TORCH staff have been advising CLAC on Humboldt HS project. Other advisors on this key project have been Parents United, MPS Board Chair, Joyce Preschool, Risen Christ School, Guadalupe Church, and Catholic Charities. Team is now trying to raise funds for implementation. (See Appendix 1)

- CLAC is helping organize a Latino Education Summit in Mankato in 2014, which was partially inspired by its HACER study "Opportunities and Challenges: The Education of Latinos in Minnesota."

- Initial stage report on cost-benefit analysis of national and international context for correction of Latino educational disparities in Minnesota with proposal for additional research is required (authored by Tor Dahl and Associates, hired with grant from Legacy Fund).

- CLAC started or is exploring strategic alliances with MDE, U of M Extension, other State Councils, St. Paul Community College, Hennepin Technical Community College, the Catholic Archdiocese (which connected us to Minnesota Catholic

Conference and Guadalupe Church), St. Paul Interfaith Network (SPIN), TORCH program, Growth & Justice, Center for School Change, Art Rolnick (Human Capital Research Collaborative at Humphrey Institute), the Achievement Gap Committee, Anoka Hennepin (STEP) and Mounds View School Districts, MPS New Schools and others on creative approaches to the Latino opportunity gap such as distilling applicable elements of the Finnish education model and total-community efforts.

- CLAC has co-presented to Latino families and educators on strategies to effectively engage Latino families at St. Paul Community College.

- CLAC initiated Latino education planning in the City of Rochester that brings together Latino community leaders, the school district, city officials, state legislators, private sector and partners outside Rochester, which include top education state and national leaders.

Following the Chicano Latino Affairs Council's proposals to Rochester that began November 2012, CLAC organized a series of meetings with the leadership of the city. Senator Nelson talked about the fact that Rochester is ideal for a pilot project because of its great leadership, engaged community and a strong school system. (See Appendix 2)

- CLAC has become a recognized source in addressing the Latino opportunity gap; it has been consulted or invited to be part of panels and discussion groups by MDE, MN Minority Education Partnership (MMEP), MDHR, U of M, U of M Extension, MnSCU, Hennepin Technical College, St. Thomas University, Metro State University, Globe University, St. Paul Teachers Union, EducationEvolving, Search Institute, Center for School Change, Minnesota Humanities Center, Twin Cities Public TV, MPR, and Univision (national Spanish TV) and others.

- Executive Director gave an interview to Mom Enough, MPR, on the Achievement Gap in January of 2013.

- CLAC was invited to be a member of advisory committees to MDE Global Literacy, Generation Next and MinneMinds.



► **EDUCATION cont.**

• CLAC Board/staff and former CLAC Board member Teresa Dawson organized and conducted a Latino Community Education Forum in Duluth, with Asst. Commissioner Elia Bruggeman as keynote speaker; this effort built on the previous Forum held in Duluth, which led to the creation of a PASS program at the Duluth School District; this program is of great help to Latino students and their families.

• From meetings with MDE and MDHR Commissioners and staff, evolved several MDE/MDHR/CLAC projects, including: membership in Commissioner Cassellius School Funding Task Force, joint presentations on Latino education and early learning scholarships in Twin Cities, Austin, and Duluth; exploring integration into MN of elements in Finnish education system; discussions on education migrant farmers, family engagement and instilling love of reading in Latino children. Councils MDE/MDHR monthly meetings, focused on coordination of efforts on education, collaboration projects and other matters, are ongoing.

• CLAC advised MnSCU Board, Chancellor and Vice Chancellor on various ways to engage Latino community and improve Latino education disparities and recruitment.

During FY2014, CLAC will request funding for the economic/international approach to be implemented by Tor Dahl & Associates and plans to structure a cradle-to-career, full-community strategy in our Rochester pilot project. (See Appendix 3)

► **HEALTH**

• CLAC and U of M Extension have collaborated on health projects directed to Latino restaurant employees.

• From Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and MnDOT meetings, CLAC was able to help address Sen. Torres Ray concerns about Latino construction workers' accidents by convening DLI Commissioner and staff with MnDOT, LA for Sen. Torres, LEDC, Hispanic

Contractors Assn. representatives; later, Mexican Consulate was added to collaborative and, it led to agreement by Mexican Government, MNOSHA and MnDOT to work together on resolving problem.

• From CLAC/CAPM/CBM, CLAC conversations with DHS contributed to Disparities Advisory committee work and its evolution to DHS Council.

► **ADVICE & LEGISLATION**

• CLAC supported passage of following bills in collaboration with other organizations and individuals: Minnesota DREAM Act, Destination Medical Center, the Early Learning Scholarship Program, and economic development appropriation in Southern Minnesota. CLAC recommended introduction of bills emphasizing value of language and culture in early education, a state seal of biliteracy for students, and annual celebration in honor of Cesar Chavez.

• CLAC advised Governor Dayton's Jobs Initiative Team and MN Trade Office Director on ways CLAC could contribute to the Governor's 7 Priorities for Job Creation in the areas of the economic and education as well as coordination and communication improvements by optimizing Latino resources (culture, language and other) internally and in opening/growing Latin American markets. The meetings with Jobs Initiative Team came about because CLAC had been the only minority organization represented at the Regional Allies of the Metropolitan Business Plan Initiative and had made presentations about the untapped potential contributions of Latinos and other minority/American Indian communities as well as immigrants.

• Executive Director testified before House State Government Finance and Veteran Affairs Committee on the relevance of the work being done by CLAC. A distinct achievement during that session was the reaction by Rep. Mary Murphy, Chair of the Committee, who commented that it might be possible to consider increasing the appropriation for the State Councils.

• Executive Director testified at the July 22, 2012 Listening Session on Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

• CLAC Board Chair, Krystell Escobar testified to a Transportation and Public Safety Committee hearing on 3/18/13 in regard to driver's licenses for undocumented workers: http://www.senate.mn/media/media_video_popup.php?flv=cmt_transpub_031813.flv

• Meetings with Minnesota Department of Revenue (MDR) resulted in presentations to MDR Income Tax Division staff on how to engage Latino and other minority/American Indian communities.

► COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CLAC must serve the best interests of the Latino community; engaging them into the political, educational and socioeconomic systems is vital in making our service effective. Since a large proportion of the community is made up of new immigrants, CLAC must use its cultural/language resources along with its high-level connections within the system to

- CLAC organized and facilitated the Immigrant Community Roundtable on 2/22/13 at Minnesota International Institute in St. Paul to revitalize its efforts to bring about cooperation among all stakeholders in immigration reform. Former members of the Barriers to Immigrant Education and Employment group participated. Action groups were formed to explore the following actions: a) integrate a skilled media group to convey the interests of immigrant/refugee communities

with the training and support of national nonprofit American Forum, b) connect private sector/community efforts to the federal initiatives for immigration reform, c) make easier the Minnesota accreditation of education degrees attained in foreign countries, d) start a Critical Conversations workshop to address the dysfunctional communication between majority and minority/immigrant communities.

- To build on the Latino advisory committee to Greater MSP that CLAC convened in 2011, CLAC organized an event with Cargill at Cargill's headquarters in January 2013 to invite those high-level Latino corporate executives to form a Latino organization with civic goals. In March 2013, Minneapolis Foundation became co-facilitator of the initiative at Cargill in Hopkins .

- CLAC and Secretary of State staff have collaborated with Asamblea de Derechos Civiles and others on voter registration presentations to Latino community.

- CLAC and University of Minnesota Extension Deans and educators have discussed obstacles to engaging Latino community, especially in area of cross-cultural communication.

Given globalization and its call for a mindset of interdependence, CLAC's bridging activities in this area take on an unprecedented importance to the state of Minnesota. We will increase the active participation of the Latino community in all our endeavors.

► LAW ENFORCEMENT

The relationship between the community and law enforcement is essential to address gang activity and drug use among the young. CLAC's role in the Executive Committee of the Violent Crime Coordinating Council and its proposal for pilot projects of Community Roundtable will allow us to contribute to solutions.

- MnDOT, DPS and CLAC planned, coordinated and held two training sessions for Latino drivers of vehicles to transport heavy-equipment in Woodbury and Mankato on 3/13 and 3/23/13, respectively.

- Based on CLAC meetings with MPS Commissioner and as member in Violent Crime and Coordinating Council, ED proposed Community Roundtable (modeled on Twin Immigrant Community Roundtable). Proposal was approved and ED was asked to be part of VCCC Executive Committee. There will be a Roundtable pilot project in Ramsey Co. and one in Rochester.

In addition to the projected Ramsey County Roundtable, VCCC has identified Rochester as the site for the second pilot project to take place in Rochester, where CLAC has helped bring together a full-community effort to work with Latino youth.





► INTEGRATION OF LATINOS INTO LARGER MINNESOTA SOCIETY

The perception of Latinos by the larger community must be objective in order for Latinos to contribute as much as our potential permits; a one-dimensional perception will be a barrier to such contribution for which Latinos and the whole state will suffer consequences given our demographic growth. It is imperative that the Latino community be known in depth and across its full spectrum; its 40% immigrant population can be as much an economic force as immigrants in the past only if its evolution from need to contribution is clearly understood.

• To build on the Latino advisory committee to Greater MSP that CLAC convened in 2011, CLAC organized an event with Cargill at Cargill's headquarters in January 2013 to invite those high-level Latino corporate executives to form a Latino organization with civic goals. In March 2013, Minneapolis Foundation became co-facilitator of the initiative at Cargill in Hopkins.

• CLAC and University of Minnesota Extension Deans and educators have discussed obstacles to engaging Latino community, especially in area of cross-cultural communication.

• MN Historical Society and CLAC collaborated in two projects to reimage Latino community in the perception of majority: a video of Latino business leaders and a series of Latino community leaders' biographies.

CLAC will continue working with the media, business leaders and various institutions to facilitate better understanding and more functional communication between Latinos and the majority community in order to make possible a more successful social team.

"...I want to let you know how much we appreciate the Chicano Latino Affairs Council and your continued support for the efforts of Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media (MPR|APM) to better serve our community. At MPR|APM, we recognize that to have a positive community impact we need to have a deeper understanding of the community in all its rich diversity. You have helped us better understand its dimensions by introducing us to new friends and by hosting a Listening for a Change session with several leaders last December. The result of these conversations is stronger content for MPR|APM listeners and a better understanding of our community. Thank you for being a trusted, proactive partner to Minnesota Public Radio as we seek to have a stronger community impact..."
Jon McTaggart President & CEO Minnesota Public Radio

"...The Minnesota Historical Society just completed a major oral history project documenting the successes, challenges, and contributions of Latinos living throughout the state of Minnesota. The only way that the Minnesota Historical Society could have undertaken such a project was with the help of our partners at CLAC (Chicano Latino Affairs Council). ...From an education standpoint, these interviews have already been used in individual History Day projects and will be used in resources for teachers being put together with the Education Department..."

Ryan K. Barland, Oral History, Minnesota Historical Society

"...What 's excited me most when we've talked is how you talk about the challenges we face as opportunities. In a sense for the Latino professionals who are in that room next Tuesday, the world is their oyster. They have the ability to achieve just about anything they want. That ability combined with the community's needs makes this an opportune moment..."

**Mike Fernandez
Corporate Vice President
Cargill**

"...Thanks again for your contribution in making the MN LC (Minnesota Latino Caucus) Roundtable successful and a firm future basis for Latino civic engagement. You contribute so much to the improvement of Latino life quality and enrichment! With appreciation & respect..."
Manuel B Guerrero (Founder Spanish Speaking Affairs Council and MN Hispanic Bar Assn)

Community Engagement

St. James Latino Community Forum 8.28.12

On August 28, 2012, CLAC participated in a Latino community development meeting in St. James with various Latino entrepreneurs. St. James' total population is approximately 40,000 with Latinos accounting for 30%-35% of the population. St. James hosts engaged Latino leadership, diverse Latino-owned and Latino-run businesses, and Latino representation on the local school board. Participants identified a remaining challenge of large scale Latino community engagement.

► Acknowledgement of successful efforts in the creation of local multicultural centers thanks to partnership efforts with Representative Gunther.

Brooklyn Park Latino Community Forum 9.25.12

On September 25, 2012 CLAC held a community forum with the help and cooperation of the City of Brooklyn Park, District 279, and the Office of Higher Education. Discussion focused on education related-matters facing the Latino community of Brooklyn Park. Participants were asked how they perceived reasons leading to low Latino graduation rates and what practical steps could be taken in order to help Latino children finish school and think about higher education. Community awareness around cost, attainability and variety of Post-secondary educational avenues and options, and also a

lack of documentation were noted as existing barriers. Information on Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals was presented to those present. The program was then opened up for a question and answer session on the topic.

► Possible avenues for solutions to this challenge were presented by CLAC staff to forum participants on-the-spot. Awareness of differences in concentrations of post-secondary options available, the various financial options and resources for supporting a higher education, and programs offered at the district level to help guide students towards pursuing a post-secondary education were presented directly to forum participants seeking more information on the topic.

CLAC's Forum Survey (Brooklyn Park) 14 Forum Responses

Gender:

4 Male, 10 Females.

Race:

2 White, 3 Black, 1 Mixed Ethnicity, 6 Hispanic.

Ages:

20-30 - 5

31-40 - 1

41-50 - 3

51-60 - 2

Unresponsive - 3

1. What is your job/position? High school administrative assistant, college student, legal assistant, healthcare, attorney, higher education, supervisor, technology project manager, bilingual pastoral associate, Hispanic cultural liaison, parent & family specialist, college & career specialist, assistant principal, engineer/marketing.

In your opinion please list the main problems that Latinos face in education:

Language barriers and lack of communication with schools, immigration issues (2), lack of parental knowledge on financial resources (2), lack of financial resources (6), lack of parental education (3), lack of engagement from the parents (5), low expectation from family and community (2), parents' hectic work schedule, lack of bilingual or Spanish information, lack of mentors/role models (2), students don't feel welcome, lack of motivation from students, lack of exposure to future possibilities: college employment, lack of value for who they are and the fact that they can make a difference.

2. Please check what are the top three barriers in Latinos in Minnesota

Education

Lack of student motivation - 5

Cultural barriers - 6

Low level of parental education - 7

Limited English Proficiency and retained in Grade due to subject failures or readiness - 2

Low support from parents, teachers, and community - 3

Lack of career orientation - 3

Lack of Latino community participation - 5

Lack of Latino leadership - 5

Low Self-Esteem - 2

3. In your opinion what ideas might work to change and improve Latino education in Minnesota?

More Spanish speaking staff (2), more programming geared towards parent education, having more

forums with parents (2), create a culture of education in the community, empower promising students/encourage them, educate the families on the importance of education, competency, leadership, parental motivation/expectation, educate parents, seek students at school, start at the early education level to plan with kids for college, more relationship building among parents and teachers, show kids that it can be done, provide more mentors in schools and in the community, latino community involvement/presence in schools, partnership with schools that focus on "intentional messages", have bilingual social workers communicating with students and families .

4. How Latino immigration status affects education and economic development?

- It is a hindrance to education and economic development (2)
- Latino immigrants helps supply demands for jobs which contributes to taxes and social security. (2)
- They bringing good working skills and they can invest in their communities
- The current immigration situation leads to subpar jobs, poor nutrition, and kids have to leave school to help their parents.
- Students don't continue with their status. They need to work in order to help the family.
- Latinos help provide cultural perspectives

5. In your opinion, should states be allowed to enact immigration laws?

- Yes (4) No (6)
- Unresponsive (4).

6. What is your opinion on the Dream Act? Would you support it if it was presented in the MN Senate or House?

- Great and yes (5)
- Yes, it supports children and families

- Support it (4)
- It benefits the state to have workers contribute to the economy
- I believe it is a way of growth for our students to continue with college (2)
- It helps students succeed.

Duluth Latino Community Forum 10.9.12

The Duluth forum covered a range of topics from CLAC's statute and legislative duties, process and benefits of becoming a U.S. citizen, and examination of statistics for the local public school district. The Duluth forum began with an in depth look at demographic information and assessment results of Duluth Public Schools. Information presented included percentage of Hispanic students in the school system, data on Latino performance in the subjects of reading, math and science. Latino graduation and dropout rates were examined. Community participation reflected a need for ESL classes offered at multiple levels and awareness efforts on availability of ESL classes that would engage parents and increase enrollment. CLAC Executive Director, Hector Garcia, outlined the role of CLAC in advising the governor and the legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Latino people in this state, as well as serving as a conduit to state government for organizations of Latino people in the state of Minnesota and serving as a referral agency to assist Latinos to secure access to state agencies and programs.

- Community participation reflected a need for ESL classes offered at multiple levels and awareness

efforts on availability of ESL classes that would engage parents and increase enrollment as a primary means to begin addressing increased engagement and the supportive role CLAC could play in advocating for further funding for ESL and citizenship classes offered to local residents.

Partners: Office of Education Equality Duluth, UMD Office of Cultural Diversity.

Hiawatha Leadership Academy Health Fair 5.15.13

CLAC collaborated with Hiawatha Leadership Academy, a K-4 school predominantly composed of Latino students that has emerged as a current statewide leader in closing the achievement gap. CLAC was asked to partner on this initiative focused on engaging students and parents with organizations advocating for healthy practices, healthy food, community education and awareness that empowers students and their families. CLAC supplied material on local community bilingual resources. Buttons and pens for the students were handed out as CLAC staff engaged with parents, faculty and staff regarding CLAC's role at the Legislature and how our work is informed by community engagement.

- Visible display of support for our schools successfully addressing achievement gap facing Latino students in Minnesota

Community Engagement

Willmar Latino Community Forum 6.18.13

On June 18th CLAC visited Willmar to speak with local residents about supporting the Latino community. Willmar is home to diverse and growing immigrant communities, where Latinos make up 20.9% of the population. Latinos in Willmar have created 52 small businesses and counting, a substantial contribution to Willmar's thriving workforce. Community members discussed the great successes that Willmar has experienced as well as persisting challenges. Latinos and allies present expressed an eagerness to expand school and postsecondary educational opportunities for their students, to raise voices and participation of Latino community members, and to focus on highlighting achievements within the community.

► Further action to be taken by a partnership with West Central Integration Collaborative in facilitating a joint-presentation to Willmar City Council on CLAC research on Latino disparities in education and workforce development is tied to the mission and work done by West Central Integration Collaborative.

Partners: Willmar Area Multicultural Marketplace, Latino Economic Development Center, West Central Integration Collaborative, Ridgewater College, Willmar Community Education & Recreation.

CLAC's Forum Survey (Willmar) 15 Forum Responses

Gender:

8 Male, 7 Females.

Race:

7 White, 2 other, 1 Asian Ethnicity, 5-Hispanic.

Ages:

20-30 - 5
31-40 - 2
41-50 - 4
51-60 - 1
61 and above - 3

1. Occupations listed: US Senate advisor; insurance agent; City of Willmar city council member; self employed; licensed professional clinical counselor; Adult basic education instructor; attorney; manager; teacher; business consultant; director/school services; retired; Ridgewater multicultural outreach; director economic development; student success coordinator; cultural liaison; community coordinator; adjunct psychology instructor;

2. In your opinion, what are the most important issues for Minnesota's Latino community?

Government Services: 0
Education: 14
Laws and Regulations: 1
Employment and Workforce Development: 6
Civic Participation: 7
Business and Economic Development: 5
Language Accessibility: 4
Housing: 4
Cultural Barriers: 9
Health: 2
Immigration: 10
Public Safety/Incarceration: 0

As can be seen from the results above, almost every participant (14 out of 15) identified education as one of the most important issues for Minnesota's Latino community. The two other most identified issues by participants were immigration (10 out of 14) and cultural barriers (9 out of 14).

3. Please rank the importance of CLAC activities in your opinion (with 1 being most important).

The top 3 identified activities that the participants identified as CLAC's most important activities were the following (with the number of participants identifying it in parenthesis).

Note: 14 out of 15 answered this section.

- Advise the governor and legislature on interests of Latinos in Minnesota (6)

- Provide research to identify causes and suggest solutions to disparities facing Latinos (6)

- Serve as a liaison for government and private organizations regarding Latino interests (5)

The activity ranked last by 5 individuals was the following: Publicize the accomplishments of Latino contributions to the state of Minnesota.

Participants' recommendations and final notes:

- "I would like to see housing issues addressed within Willmar; there is little affordable housing available. I would also like to see more services getting Latinos into higher education." – Community Coordinator/Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor.

- For CLAC to "Serve more as a resource for rural communities." – Director of Economic Development



Community Engagement

Long Prairie Community Forum 6.26.13

CLAC traveled to Long Prairie on June 26th to host the 2nd of 6 Latino Community Forums to take place across the state. Long Prairie's total population is just under 4,000 with Latinos making up 29.9% of that population. Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public Schools have seen an influx of incoming Latino students, Adult Basic Education providers are witnessing increased participation in Citizenship Classes offered, and a robust network of bilingual resources have become an added component to the Long Prairie community as a whole. Latino community members and allies engaged in dialogue on topics like education and civic engagement along with issues specific to the Latino community of Long Prairie; providing CLAC with valuable information direct from the folks who know best.

► Successful in bringing community members to the table with decision making leadership, Representative Kresha was able to directly consult his Latino constituents on proposed policy and legislation related to drivers licenses for eligible undocumented drivers in Minnesota.

Partners: Long Prairie Grey-Eagle Public Schools Hispanic Community Liaison, Latino Economic Development Center, La Voz Libre (local Spanish language newspaper), Minnesota Department of Revenue Latino Outreach.

CLAC's Forum Survey (Long Prairie) 14 Forum Responses

Gender:

9 Male, 3 Females, 2 no answer.

Race:

9 no answer, 2 White 3-other 0- Asian

Ethnicity: 6-Hispanic

Ages:

19 and below - 3
20-30 - 2
31-40 - 1
41-50 - 2
51-60 - 1
61 and above - 2
No answer- 3

1. Occupations listed: student, Police Chief, Retired Mayor, LPGE School employee, Teacher, Farmer, Laborer, Bureaucrat, Law enforcement, Bilingual Interpreter,

2. In your opinion, what are the most important issues for Minnesota's Latino community?

Government Services: 4
Education: 12
Laws and Regulations: 2
Employment and Workforce Development: 7
Civic Participation: 5
Business and Economic Development: 1
Language Accessibility: 3
Housing: 1
Cultural Barriers: 7
Health: 3
Immigration: 7
Public Safety/Incarceration: 2
Other: Lack of areas to play soccer

As can be seen from the results above, almost all participants (12 out of 14) identified education as one of the most important issues for Minnesota's Latino community. The three other most identified issues by participants were immigration, cultural barriers, and employment and workforce development, each identified by half the participants (7 out of 14).

3. Please rank the importance of CLAC activities in your opinion (with 1 being most important).

The top 2 identified activities that the participants identified as CLAC's most important activities were the following

(with the number of participants identifying it in parenthesis)

Note: 11 out of 14 participants answered this section.

- Provide research to identify causes and suggest solutions to disparities facing Latinos (3).
- Serve as a liaison for government and private organizations regarding Latino interests (3).

The activity ranked last by 5 individual was the following: Publicize the accomplishments of Latino contributions to the state of Minnesota.

Participant's recommendations and final comments:

- "I'm glad these community forums are seen as a starting point and not the end. I'm glad CLAC is working to build networks."- Bureaucrat in attendance.
- "Our Representative was very receptive and was going to act with our feedback on our behalf."- Law enforcement member.
- 3 participants asked that CLAC work to bring outdoor and indoor soccer to Long Prairie. As one student said, "indoor soccer brings everyone together."



Financial Report

Chicano Latino Affairs Budget Fiscal Year 2013

Note: According to the MN Statute, CLAC must list receipts and expenditures

REVENUE	General	Cultural Heritage Funds
Fund Appropriation	275,000.00	21,983.52
Carry-forward from FY 2012	22,524.45	
	297,524.45	21,983.52

EXPENSES	General	Cultural Heritage Funds
Salaries	212,070.73	21,983.52
Other Employee Cost	9,702.75	
Space Rental and Utilities	20,505.88	
Printing and Advertising	7,298.04	
Prof-Tech Services	5,102.00	
Communications	131.88	
Tavel-InState	7,729.93	
Employee Development	899.00	
Supplies	8,890.28	
Equipment	1,072.35	
Repairs	47.57	
Other Operating Costs	862.65	
Equipment-NonCapital	5,088.73	
IT Prof/Tech Services	1,020.00	
IT Computer and System	2,548.50	
IT Communications	3,807.39	
Remaining Encumbrance	6,847.63	
	293,625.31	21,983.52

Returned to the State of MN	3,899.14	0
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FY 2013 Annual Calendar

1st Quarter
Research & Policy
Budget Formulation

July: 2012

- ◆ Beginning of FY 2013.
- ◆ CLAC/MHC/HACER Grant Education Project Development and Initial Data Analysis.
- ◆ Testimony at the Listening Session on Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

August: 2012

- ◆ FY 14-15 Biennial budget preparations.
- ◆ Community Forum: St. James.
- ◆ Education Project Data Collection and Report Writing.

September: 2012

- ◆ Council Meeting & Board Retreat.
- ◆ Officer Elections.
- ◆ Community Forum: Brooklyn Park.

2nd Quarter
Legislative Policy
Budget Input

October: 2012

- ◆ Community Forum: Duluth.
- ◆ Legacy Funding YR 2 proposal submission.

November: 2012

- ◆ Council & Board Meeting.
- ◆ Report submitted to MN Governor and Legislature on Nov. 15.
- ◆ Rochester Project created.

December: 2012

- ◆ Oral history project with MN Historical Society documenting the successes, challenges, and contributions of Latinos.
- ◆ Published Report, Opportunities and Challenges: The Education of Latinos in Minnesota.

3rd Quarter
Legislator Visits
& Testimony

January: 2013

- ◆ Council & Board Meeting.
- ◆ Education pilot projects at Humboldt and Northfield High Schools.
- ◆ Mom Enough interview on the Achievement Gap.
- ◆ Interview by Univision.

February: 2013

- ◆ Organized and facilitated the Immigrant Community Roundtable.
- ◆ Promoting the introduction of a preschool and a bilingual seal bills.
- ◆ Participated in the Violent Crime Coordinating Council meetings.

March: 2013

- ◆ Council & Board Meeting
- ◆ Testified before House State Government Finance and Veteran Affairs Committee.
- ◆ Community Forum: Duluth Commercial Vehicle Operator Workshops for Latino drivers in Woodbury and Mankato.
- ◆ Organized an event for high level Latino executives at Cargill's headquarters.
- ◆ Meetings with Rochester officials.

4th Quarter
Bill Tracking &
Assessment

April: 2013

- ◆ Latino Legislative Day at the Capitol: proclaimed Cesar Chavez day by MN Governor Mark Dayton.

May: 2013

- ◆ Council & Board Meeting.
- ◆ EverybodyIn initiative.
- ◆ Education pilot projects at Humboldt and Northfield High Schools.
- ◆ Draft of cost-benefit analysis of national and international context of Latino educational disparities in Minnesota (by Tor Dahl and Associates).

June: 13

- ◆ Community Forum: Willmar and Long Prairie.
- ◆ Formation of Latino Leadership Group.
- ◆ EverybodyIn initiative

Our Team

CLAC consists of fifteen-member Council directors, eleven of which are members of the Chicano Latino community and four of which are legislators. Of the eleven community members, there is a representative for each of the state's eight congressional districts and three at-large community representatives. All community members are appointed by the governor of Minnesota to help provide a voice in all levels of government for the Chicano Latinos who reside in the state.

CLAC staff members provide the operational support for the council. Their responsibilities include engagement of the Latino communities, research and analysis, and engagement of the governor and state legislators.

CLAC's Executive Director leads the Council staff and its integral units: legislative affairs, community affairs, research, and administrative unit.

CLAC Staff

Hector Garcia

Executive Director



In his role as Executive Director, Hector is tasked with implementing the agency vision as proposed by the CLAC Board of Directors.

Garcia arrived in Minnesota in 1973 and brings to the agency over thirty years of experience. He has served as advisor to state legislators and local public officials including Governors Arne Carlson, Jesse Ventura and Tim Pawlenty and former State Commissioners Peter Gillette and Matt Kramer.

He served as Vice President of International and Domestic Emerging Markets at Wells Fargo Bank N.A., co-founder and executive director of Minnesotans for NAFTA, and Executive Director of the Minnesota/Dakotas District of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ).

Gladys Rodriguez

Office Manager



Gladys Rodriguez is CLAC's longtime staff member and has been with the Council since 1998. She first began

her career as an Office Specialist and has served the post as Administrative Assistant since 2003.

Gladys provides a wealth of support to the executive director, legislative affairs and community affairs, and the board of directors. In addition, she is in charge of CLAC's financial oversight. Gladys is CLAC's webmaster as she updates and maintains the website and she designs all desktop publishing for CLAC.

Born in the capitol city of San Salvador in El Salvador, Gladys emigrated to Los Angeles as a child with her family before moving to St. Paul, Minnesota in 1992.

de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Monterrey, México, where she also earned a minor in Tourism. From 2010 until 2012, she was appointed as a Board member for the Chicano Latino Affairs Council representing 1st Congressional District. She maintains, connects and enhances relationships with the Latino community and organizations, community at large, legislators and government entities, officials of county and city governments, schools, the business and non-profit sectors and CLAC Board members in the Southeaster Minnesota region.

Elyse Ruiz

Legislative and Community Outreach Specialist



Elyse began at CLAC as Community Outreach Specialist, she was recently promoted to Legislative and

Community Outreach Manager. She brings experience and enthusiasm to her position and remains excited by the continual development of her skills in community engagement, research, and policy analysis. She helps CLAC foster and facilitate Latino community engagement in the democratic political process on a statewide scale providing a platform for convening community members with the elected representation and decision making leadership. CLAC's important role at the legislature require her attendance

Rebeca Sedarski

Regional Community Liaison and Project Coordinator



Rebeca Sedarski, of Rochester, worked part time for the Rochester Public Schools as a Bilingual Specialist for the Early Childhood Special Education Department.

She earned a Business Administration degree from Winona State University and also attended the Instituto Tecnológico y

CLAC Staff

at hearings related to education, economic development, immigration, health and housing policy impacting the state's Latino population. Elyse holds a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and Sociology from St Catherine University in St. Paul. Her past work experience includes positions in Pennsylvania as a field organizer for the 2010 elections, regional filed director for 2011 elections in Ohio, county board of elections experience in campaign finance, and campaign management of an Ohio state senate race in 2012.

Rosario Plascencia

Policy Research Analyst



Rosario Plascencia, a native Texan, started with CLAC as an intern during the

2012-2013 academic year and is now our Research Analyst. She holds a Bachelors of Art in Political Economy from the University of the Incarnate Word and is pursuing a Masters of Public Policy at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

She comes to CLAC with over 4 years of social policy/program research experience she gained through policy internships and research assistantships at the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, the Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program at the University of the Incarnate Word, and the San Antonio Housing Authority.

CLAC Board Members



Krystell Escobar
(May 2012-January 2016)
At Large, Chairwoman



Suyapa Miranda
(May 2013-January 2016)
District 4, Vice Chairwoman



Gerardo Bonilla
(March 2011-January 2015)
District 2, Secretary



Francisco Gonzalez
(May 2012- January 2016)
At Large, Treasurer



Michael Muñoz
(May 2013- January 2014)
District 1



Adriana O'Meara
(April 2010-January 2014)
District 3



Cynthia Campos
(May 2012-January 2016)
District 5



Margaret Villanueva
(March 2011-January 2015)
District 6



Kandace Creel Falcon
(May 2013- January 2014)
District 7



Luisa Pierce Gutierrez
(March 2011 - January 2015)
District 8



Jesús Villaseñor
(March 2011- January 2015)
At Large, Council Chair



Sen. Patricia Torres Ray
(May 2013)



Sen. Carla Nelson
(September 2013)



Rep. Linda Slocum
(May 2013)



Rep. Ron Kresha
(May 2013)

Previous Board Members

Rebeca Sedarski
(April 2010-November 2012)
District 1, Secretary

Alberto Quintela
(May 2012-December 2012)
District 4

Francisco Morales
(April 2010-February 2013)
District 7

Previous Staff

Sarah Goodspeed
Legislative & Community
Relations Manager

Appendices

Appendix 1

HUMBOLDT HS PILOT PROJECT TO INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS IN HACER REPORT TO CLAC AND HUMANITIES CENTER

CLAC, HACER, Minnesota Humanities Center and consultant Beth Berry (founder TORCH program) met over several months with Principal Mike Sodomka, staff, teachers, students and parents at Humboldt High School. Discussions took place on how Humboldt could incorporate during the 2013-2014 SY some of the elements of success* identified during HACER's and CLAC's own research on the Minnesota Latino achievement gap and low graduation rates. At our most recent meeting on 7/9/13, we reached an agreement on what Humboldt found doable and on what would be required in terms of times, costs and activities during the upcoming school year. We are in the process of designing a plan of action, which we will submit to a foundation with which we have discussed the project. The plan of action is attached.

*HACER 2012 Report Opportunities and Challenges: The Education of Latinos in Minnesota findings identified eight elements of success. From these, five elements of success were selected by Humboldt:

- Building strong relationships between staff and students and providing individual attention to each student.
- Fostering student motivation by helping to identify and achieve goals, offering encouragement in process
- Providing exposure to career & higher education opportunities
- Recognizing & placing value on student's cultural identities and needs; and.
- Encouraging family involvement by building mutually respectful relationship & addressing needs of parents & families.

NOTE: CLAC also offered to perform element (utilizing partnerships, collaboration, & community involvement to engage students) through its activities with MSU, SPC, VCCC even though it falls outside scope of Minnesota Humanities Center project

Humboldt HS, St. Paul College, Minnesota Humanities Center and CLAC are doing the following:

1. Fostering motivation in the Latino students at Humboldt , especially by exposing them to career opportunities at St. Paul College;
2. Encouraging with all partners the engagement of the students' families (in this area, Pierre Cejudo's team at SPPS would also be asked to participate);
3. Helping draft the final grant request to be submitted to the foundation.

Immediately, below is rough draft of the Humboldt HS Plan (now funneled into July August Calendar). Below that is some background on the Elements of Success selected by Humboldt HS from the results of our

findings (see HACER report) and participation of consultant Beth Berry (TORCH founder and director), which will hopefully help clarify the work we are all doing.

1. August 26 will be the first Humboldt HS staff session, at which Principal Sodomka will structure the HHS Team.
2. Between August 26 and September 9, 2013, Humboldt HS will hold an open house for jr and sr students and their families to be informed on the new and exciting program that will be offered to them during the 2013-14 SY; participants will be asked to pass the word to other students and family members.
3. During that week, the first 1/2 day work session with Beth Berry and Rodolfo Gutierrez (HACER) will take place. It will be followed by similar sessions approximately once a month.
4. MN Humanities Center will schedule a complementary training session on Absent Narratives (attached) each semester, to include MHC's 4 values.
5. Visits by students to St. Paul College will be scheduled with those institutions.
6. Hiring of new Educational Assistant by Humboldt HS will be scheduled.
7. Visit to Science Museum and book abstract projects will be evaluated and, if appropriate, scheduled.
8. CLAC will explore grants from Fondo de Nuestra Comunidad St. Paul Foundation and other Foundations.
9. CLAC will send Calendar (done) for all the above items to be entered (to be done by each organization).
10. HACER will submit an Evaluation Plan by December 2013.



Support To Humboldt HS By Consultant Beth Berry

GOAL of the Collaborative Programming: Programs at Schools During 2013, Humboldt High School and its educational programs will be encouraged to use the findings of the CLAC and HACER research to improve their own programming and implement school practice, leading to (effecting) district-based polices that support success for their Latino students.

The project partners will collaborate to improve Latino students' performance by doing the following:

1. Discuss how to incorporate into existing programs elements of success identified in the 2012 Opportunities and Challenges: The Education of Latinos in Minnesota report, which are not currently reflected in their current programs or practice.
2. Plan and design the combined programs to be implemented the following school year.
3. Train selected staff at Humboldt High School in the elements of success and incorporate community engagement to include students and their families.

Consultant will:

Participate in discussion phase of project by participating by sharing knowledge and best practice in planning meetings with other project collaborators and leadership from Humboldt High School.

Assist leadership from Humboldt High School prioritize the elements of success to advance during this 2013 project period.

Ensure that discussion, planning, and training phases align the elements of success as outlined in the 2012 Opportunities and Challenges: The

Education of Latinos in Minnesota report The Consultant will meet regularly with Leadership at Humboldt and other groups identified by Humboldt Leadership (work team of teachers/staff, parents, and students), Non-Profit, and other project consultants to discuss Humboldt's specific needs (as outlined by the five prioritized elements of success), create and draft with Humboldt Leadership a specific plan and strategy, check progress and make adjustments, and review and follow up.

Appendix 2

Rochester Meetings

Following the Chicano Latino Affairs Council's proposals to Rochester that began November 2012, CLAC organized a series of meetings with the leadership of the city. The purpose of the first meeting was to lay the groundwork in the Rochester Public Schools (RPS) by discussing how to reduce the Latino education disparities. On December 17th, 2013, CLAC's Executive Director Hector Garcia and Regional Community Liaison Rebeca Sedarski met with Superintendent Michael Munoz, RPS Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jean Lubke, RPS Student and Family Coordinator Regina Seabrook and Senator Carla Nelson.

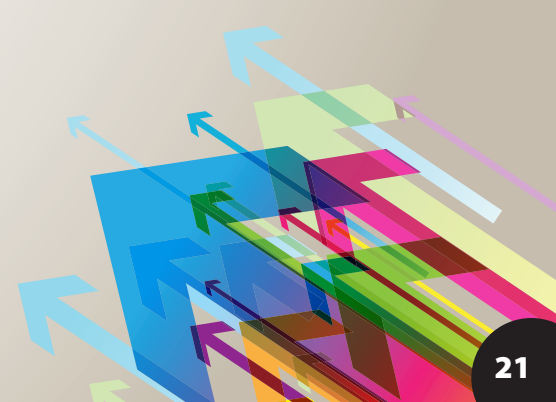
Mr. Garcia talked about the role of the Council as a bridge of communication and collaboration between the community and, mainly, state but also federal and local government, with the private and non-profit sectors to reduce Latino disparities. He mentioned that the U.S. Department of Education had ranked Minnesota last in the achievement gap between Latinos and majority students as well as in the 4-year HS graduation rate. He mentioned that MDE Commissioner Cassellius, Assistant Commissioner Bruggeman and MnSCU Chancellor Rosenstone are very interested in addressing this challenge.

Mr. Garcia also mentioned the HACER report, contracted by CLAC and Minnesota Humanities Center with a Legacy Fund grant, which identifies elements of success in programs that have improved the mentioned rate of graduation. Senator Nelson talked about the fact that Rochester is ideal for a pilot project because of its great leadership, engaged community and a strong school system. Mr. Munoz believes that we need a drastic change, a complete new system and gave 4 necessary key components:

1. Focus on kids early.
2. Change the way the schools teach--the current system does not engage students.
3. More flexibility to allow for creativity--education should have the right to do what is best for the community and focus on people instead of programs.
4. Improve culture of homes--remove barriers (food, medical care, housing, etc.) for kids because they hinder students' ability to learn.

Later the same day, Mr. Garcia, Senator Nelson and the Rebeca Sedarski met with of Rochester's Mayor Ardele Brede, President Chamber of Commerce John Wade, Workforce Development and Education Director Jessi Strinmoen and Representative Mike Benson. The purpose of this meeting was a more comprehensive one: to discuss how to expedite the process of integration of Latinos into the larger society while reducing existing disparities and increasing Latinos' contributions to the Rochester area. We focused on Latino education in Rochester as well as the state, national and international research CLAC has been doing since 2010 and how to connect both.

Continue next page >>>



Appendices

We also talked about how to harness the international connections and cultural resources of Latino executives, doctors, researchers and engineers in Rochester in ways that would benefit the area's economy. This could be pursued through international connections, research and entrepreneurial business alliances as well as trade and tourism. Finally, we exchanged ideas on how CLAC's past work with ACHLA (Alliance of Chicano Hispanics and Latin Americans) and others could be brought to fruition by helping them start a community information/services clearinghouse. It was agreed that all these projects would help transform the perception of the Latino community among many in Minnesota from one in need to one that encompasses need and contribution to the commonwealth.

On March 28, 2013, Hector and Rebeca met again with the leadership of Rochester. In attendance were: Mayor Ardele Brede; John Wade and Jessi Strinmoen with the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce; Gary Smith, President of the Rochester Area Economic Development, Inc.; Senator Nelson; Strategist for Mayo Medical Destination Center Heidi Mestad; Miguel Valdez and Miriam Goodson (ACHLA); and Superintendent Michael Munoz. The purpose was to follow up on the discussions that took place on December 17th, 2012.

In regards to the Rochester Latino community, it was mentioned that CLAC could help enhance the capacity of the Latino community to organize and become more productive as well as accelerate its integration into the larger community. Part of this could be done by supporting ACHLA in its efforts to build a Rochester

multicultural center and support the work of the Rochester Public Schools in addressing the opportunity gap and low high school graduation rates of Latinos as well as in channeling the aspirations of Latino youth towards higher education.

Hector talked about the fact that Mayo Clinic could benefit in pursuing the High Net Worth Individuals (HNWI) in the Latin American market. He quoted from Capgemini/Merrill Lynch World Wealth Report 2010: "Regionally, Latin America has the highest percentage of Ultra-HNWIs relative to the overall HNWI population – 2.4%, compared to the global average of 0.9%." Hector also mentioned that some Latinos in Minnesota have connections in their countries of origin and could help establish alliances and facilitate communications conducive to these objectives. Alliances could include joint research among Mayo Clinic, the Minneapolis Life Sciences Center and a Cuernavaca, Mexico (Sister City to Minneapolis) Life Sciences Center; and a MN-Mexico exchange of young entrepreneurs and one of students/ doctors.

Appendix 3

EMPOWERING MINNESOTA'S CHILDREN To Be ALL They Can Be

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

You have heard it before — we have a crisis in education. Native, minority and poor students are not faring as well along their school journeys as are others. The former group constitutes an ever-growing proportion of Minnesota's population. These are children who will be expected to add value to this state's economy in the coming years, yet their levels of

attainment are inadequate to sustain Minnesota's economy at its current level, let alone grow it. The cost of doing nothing is exponentially greater than the cost of funding an effective strategy of productivity-based transformation.

There are sound and quantifiable economic reasons for undertaking this initiative. Projected ROI will be in the thousands of percent. The continued prosperity of Minnesota, its businesses and its residents will be greatly enhanced by the outcomes of this project.

Using the principles of productivity, the power of Absent Narratives, the synergism of diversity, the insights and experience of others who have attempted to reform or transform their educational systems and the statistical database of the OECD, it is possible for Minnesota's schools to redirect. Transforming themselves to generate much better student outcomes will translate into a better economic and social outcome for Minnesota. The plan itself is laid out for the first three years of implementation. It includes 20 school districts in two phases.

Minnesota has drifted from having the highest high school graduation rates, the highest rates of college acceptance among applicants and the highest college entrance exam score in the United States. Minnesota is now ranked 24th in the nation in graduation rates and has the worst rate for American Indians, the worst rate for Latinos, and the second-worst rate for blacks. Moreover, we have the largest disparity in graduation rate between whites and American Indians and whites and Latinos, and the second-worst disparity between whites and African-Americans. This is likely not the Minnesota you remember.

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Appendices

We have passed the tipping point in this state, and it is time to take action with a formula that has been shown to consistently produce phenomenal results. That is the plan you are now holding.

CONCLUSION

The results of our study demonstrate the demographic need and economic costs and benefits of conducting this project. It also carefully assesses and identifies underlying reasons for the problem. TDA and its process have been involved with a number of school interventions as well as large-scale interventions, among them, those documented in this proposal.

Designed to guide organizations through the process of improving productivity and learning to add value, this project as planned for preK-5th grade will go a long way towards equalizing public education for preK – 12. But to realize the full economic benefit, there are other matters requiring political will and action. Children without financial means often are without understanding of the systems of higher education or are denied access to financial aid to finance college. Without certainty of whether they are allowed to establish and build their lives in this county and in Minnesota, and without access to the means to fund their advancements, disappointment, frustration, ennui and lost potential likely will result.

We all encounter a measure of uncertainty in our lives, and know the extra stress it brings. The New York Stock Exchange is front page news when there are even just rumors of political or economic uncertainty. It is only once the source of uncertainty is removed that the market recovers and we begin once again to grow and improve. We know from our own lives how difficult it is to move forward when a cloud of uncertainty hangs over us.

We have more than 400,000 poor children under the age of 18 in our state, only $\frac{1}{4}$ of them are children of at least one immigrant. And here is documentation of their experience from a recent New York Times piece by Eduardo Porter: James Heckman is one of the nation's top economists studying human development. Thirteen years ago, he shared the Nobel Prize for economics. In February, he stood before the annual meeting of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Industry, showed the assembled business executives a chart, and demolished the United States' entire approach to education. The chart showed the results of cognitive tests that were first performed in the 1980s on several hundred low-birthweight 3-year-olds, who were then retested at ages 5, 8 and 18.

Children of mothers who had graduated from college scored much higher at age 3 than those whose mothers had dropped out of high school, proof of the advantage for young children of living in rich, stimulating environments. More surprising is that the difference in cognitive performance was just as big at age 18 as it had been at age 3. "The gap is there before kids walk into kindergarten," Mr. Heckman told me. "School neither increases nor reduces it." It is not an isolated finding. Another study by Mr. Heckman and Flavio Cunha of the University of Pennsylvania found that the gap in math abilities between rich and poor children was not

much different at age 12 than it was at age 6.

"Early education is an essential piece if we are going to have a better education system," Barbara Bowman, an expert on early childhood education in Chicago who has advised the Education Department. "We're inching in that direction."

Education is always portrayed in the American narrative as the great leveler. But it can't do its job if it leaves so many behind so early.

In a recent meeting that included Beth Berry, the Executive Director of Northfield's successful TORCH program, Ms. Berry spoke of how, after the program had been running for several years, a conversation with Latino immigrant parents revealed that they did not read to their children. They could read only in Spanish, and were afraid that reading in their native language would somehow undo their children's assimilation into American culture and diminish their opportunities for successful futures. Clearly, improving the education experience for our youngest learners is an area of great promise and one that is hugely underfunded.

Let us do this thing, so children and their parents will dare to dream — and we shall all be enriched.

"When we achieve peak performance, there is a satisfaction so deep and abiding that our spirits are lifted and our minds are at peace." — Tor Dahl, Chairman Emeritus, The World Confederation of Productivity Science
Tor Dahl Bio, President of Tor Dahl & Associates, is an economist, consultant, and adjunct professor in public health at the University of Minnesota. A Fulbright Scholar in Economics, Tor



MERCADO

Appendices

has published works on health care, economics, management, productivity, and behavioral change. He was educated at the Norwegian University School of Economics and Business Administration in Bergen, Norway, and at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, USA. He has served as a consultant to a number of corporations, U.S. governmental departments, foreign governments, and universities.

Tor coordinated and edited the Proceedings from the White House Conference on the Vinland National Center, which is a non-profit rehabilitation center for people with disabilities, and chaired international conferences on lifestyle and health. He is the Chairman Emeritus of the World Confederation of Productivity Science (WCPS), and has served on a number

of national and state councils and task forces. He served as the Governor's Representative on the Minnesota Coalition on Health Care Costs, and on the Blue Ribbon Task Force on State Health Priorities. He is Emeritus Board Member of the Science Museum of Minnesota and a former President of the Sons of Norway Foundation. Currently, he serves on the boards of the American Productivity and Quality Council (APQC), Vinland National Center, Tor Dahl & Associates and The Butler Foundation. He is also a member of the Leadership Group of the WCPS and writes for Minnesota Business, Harstad Tidene, The Latin American Advisor, The World Academy of Productivity Science Publications and journals such as Cost Management, and Executive Excellence.

presenter at a number of national meetings of the American Hospital Association, the Society for the Advancement of Management, the World Confederation of Productivity Science, the Operations Research Society of America, the American Economics Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Science Foundation, the American Heart Association, and others. He is also a co-founder of Ski for Light, the Vinland National Center, the Extensor Corporation, the Norwegian American Cultural Institute, the Minnesota Council on Productivity, and his own consulting firm—Tor Dahl & Associates.

Mr. Dahl has also been knighted by the King of Norway in recognition of his global work in the field of productivity and his contribution to Norway-America relations.

Appendix 4

Statute

Minnesota Statutes 3.9223 COUNCIL ON AFFAIRS OF CHICANO/LATINO PEOPLE

Subdivision 1.Membership.

The state Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People consists of 11 members appointed by the governor, including eight members representing each of the state's congressional districts and three members appointed at large. The demographic composition of the council members must accurately reflect the demographic composition of Minnesota's Chicano/Latino community, including migrant workers, as determined by the state demographer. Membership, terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies are as provided in section 15.0575. Because the



council performs functions that are not purely advisory, the council is not subject to the expiration date in section 15.059. Two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker and two members of the senate appointed by the Subcommittee on Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration shall serve as nonvoting members of the council. The council shall annually elect from its membership a chair and other officers it deems necessary.

Subd. 3.Duties.

The council shall:

- (1) advise the governor and the Legislature on the nature of the issues confronting Chicano/Latino people in this state, including the unique problems encountered by Chicano/Latino migrant agricultural workers;
- (2) advise the governor and the Legislature on statutes or rules necessary to ensure Chicano/Latino people access to benefits and services provided to people in this state;
- (3) recommend to the governor and the Legislature legislation to improve the economic and social condition of Chicano/Latino people in this state;
- (4) serve as a conduit to state government for organizations of Chicano/Latino people in the state;
- (5) serve as a referral agency to assist Chicano/Latino people to secure access to state agencies and programs;
- (6) serve as a liaison with the federal government, local government units, and private organizations on matters relating to the Chicano/Latino people of this state;
- (7) perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to suggest solutions to problems of Chicano/Latino people in the areas of education, employment, human rights,

Tor has been a keynote speaker or



health, housing, social welfare, and other related programs;
(8) implement programs designed to solve problems of Chicano/Latino people when authorized by other statute, rule, or order; and
(9) publicize the accomplishments of Chicano/Latino people and their contributions to this state.

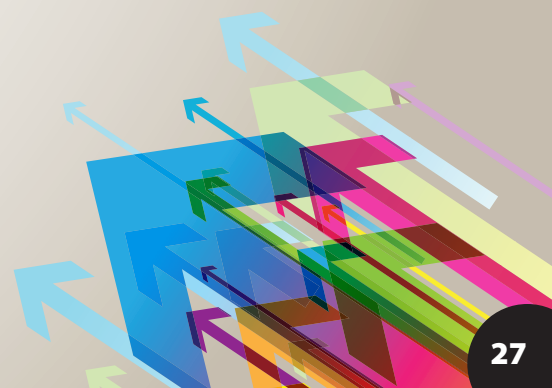
Subd. 6.State agency assistance.
Other state agencies shall supply the council upon request with advisory staff services on matters relating to the

jurisdiction of the council. The council shall cooperate and coordinate its activities with other state agencies to the highest possible degree.

Subd. 7.Report.

The council shall prepare and distribute a report to the governor and Legislature by November 15 of each even-numbered year. The report shall summarize the activities of the council since its last report, list receipts and expenditures, identify the major problems and issues confronting

Chicano/Latino people, and list the specific objectives that the council seeks to attain during the next biennium.



ROCHESTER Thank you notes

Monday, July 22, 2013 2:20 PM
From: Lorna Mendez [lmendez@wfdi.ws]
To: Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC)
Cc: lornaemendez@gmail.com

Hi Rebecca,
Thanks for the invitation. It was nice to participate and I'm at the order of the organization if I can help in any other way and help to advertise the program in this area. Thanks again and have good week.

Best Regards,
Lorna E. Mendez
G.C..D.F - Global Career Development Facilitator
GCDF # 11693
Marketing & Employment Specialist
Workforce Development Inc.
Minnesota Workforce Center
Faribault, MN 55021
E-Mail: lmendez@wfdi.ws
Cell #: (507)-475-2690
Message#: (507)-446-1462

Friday, July 19, 2013 10:45 AM
From: Kymn Anderson [Kymn@faribaultmn.org]
To: Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC)
You replied on 7/19/2013 3:12 PM.

I was pleased to attend and remain willing and eager to assist with making connections for you in the community.

I am moving forward with our effort to better engage the Latino business community...
Thanks for including the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce in your community forum.

All the best

Kymn Anderson
President
Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism
The effective VOICE OF BUSINESS
promoting growth and prosperity!
507-334-4381
kymn@faribaultmn.org
www.faribaultmn.org

Friday, July 19, 2013 2:43 PM
Annette Parker [Annette.Parker@southcentral.edu]
To: Ramiro Alvarez [Ramiro.Alvarez@southcentral.edu]; Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC)
Cc: Linda Beer [Linda.Beer@southcentral.edu]

Rebecca,

Thank you so much for providing South Central College such a wonderful opportunity... Warm regards, Dr. Annette Parker.

Dr. Annette Parker, President
South Central College
Annette.Parker@SouthCentral.edu
North Mankato Campus
1920 Lee Blvd.
North Mankato, MN 56003
507-389-7211
Faribault Campus
1225 Third Street SW
Faribault, MN 55021
507-332-5809

Fri, 19 Jul 2013 12:59:16 -0500
From: Ramiro Alvarez <Ramiro.Alvarez@southcentral.edu>
To: "Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC)" <Rebeca.Sedarski@state.mn.us>
Cc: Annette Parker <annette.parker@southcentral.edu>, Linda Beer <linda.beer@southcentral.edu>

Hi Rebeca,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in such a great event! It is always rewarding to have a meaningful dialogue with folks from our own community. Please consider us at SCC a resource and a partner in providing access to higher education for the Latino community.

Ramiro Alvarez, Jr.
Access and Opportunity Advisor
South Central College
507-331-4288
www.southcentral.edu

From: Tollefson, Colleen (TOUR)
Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2012 11:06 AM
To: Garcia, Hector (CLAC)
Cc: Edman, John (TOUR)
Subject: RE: meeting follow-up

Hector, I think your image of "Global" for the metro area is right on. I have passed it on to Gayle Junnilla who manages the metro tourism committee. My hope would be that they would add it as an area of emphasis in future marketing.

You will be hearing from us shortly about becoming involved in the statewide branding efforts. You represent a valuable perspective that needs to be considered in the outcome.

I've also passed your name on to Steve Russell, whom we are working with on broadening access to visas. Although China is his current focus, Latin American countries are on his radar screen. Wait time, lack of access to visas is a barrier to being a welcoming destination, regardless of the purpose of travel.

Thank you for meeting with us. You are an important resource for us.

Colleen Tollefson
Assistant Director
Explore Minnesota Tourism
100 Metro Square 121 East 7th Place
Saint Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-757-1872
e-mail: colleen.tollefson@state.mn.us

www.exploreminnesota.com
www.industry.exploreminnesota.com

From: Garcia, Hector (CLAC)
Sent: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 7:58 PM
To: Edman, John (TOUR); Tollefson, Colleen (TOUR); ingridss@umn.edu; lisa@culturebrokers.com
Cc: Richard Senese (rsenese@umn.edu); krystell.escobar@gmail.com; micerojd@gmail.com
Subject: meeting follow-up

Hello,

I am attaching some of the information I promised during our recent meeting: a) several of my articles on a proposed Global Metro Area image for the Twin Cities as well as a PPP on the same subject I presented with Burke Murphy to the Regional Allies of the Metropolitan Business Planning Initiative, b) a PPP on Immigrants presented often to various audiences by Bill Blazar, Sr. VP at MN Chamber of Commerce, and c) John Foley, CEO LevelBrand, Fire on the Prairie vision sent to the Regional Allies and my comments.

I attended the Greater MSP meeting at the Guthrie Theater last Monday night. The presentation was excellent but, outside of the China Center, there was no mention of global connectivity. Please see the attached figures on US trade with China and Mexico as well as the WSJ article.

When I was working at Wells Fargo Bank as VP International & Domestic Emerging Markets, Latin American HNWI's (high net worth individuals) were investing \$100 billion per year in the U.S. and had assets in this country worth \$2 trillion dollars. A significant number of high level Latin corporate executives in the Twin Cities would be interested in supporting the civic efforts to make Saint Paul and Minneapolis more appealing to Latin American companies, investors, clients and tourists.

Look forward to your comments.



Hector Garcia | Executive Director
Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) | www.clac.state.mn.us
60 Empire Drive, Suite 203 | 5L Paul, MN 55103
651.296.2992 Cell 612.998.3014 | 651.297.1297 | hector.garcia@state.mn.us
Engaging the Latino community through public service since 1978...



Letters Of Recognition Report 2013



SENATE
State of Minnesota

Carla Nelson
Senator District 30
111 State Capitol Building
75 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606
Office Phone: 651-296-4848

November 13, 2012

Honorable Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

At the request of Hector Garcia, Executive Director of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, I offer this letter in support of the council and the meritorious work it is performing for our state.

I have worked with Mr. Garcia and the council on numerous occasions. This collaboration has helped to inform how the policies we create will affect the Chicano Latino population in the greater Rochester area, and across our state. I have been impressed by the knowledge and passion that Mr. Garcia has for the work of the council. Mr. Garcia's advocacy for a close examination of educational opportunities for Chicano Latinos, as well as a focus on closing the achievement gap in Minnesota, is an outstanding example of the positive work the council is doing.

In addition to its broad state level policy advocacy, the council supports the work of local organizations across Minnesota. One of these organizations, the Alliance of Chicanos, Hispano, Latino Americans (ACHLA) is located in Rochester, and works tirelessly to address the needs of Chicanos, Hispano, and Latino Americans within our community. ACHLA offers a wide variety of services, including educational programs for adults, and tutoring, enrichment, mentoring, and recreational activities for children and young adults. The excellent work that an organization like ACHLA is performing for our Latino community is another fine example of the positive advocacy and support that Chicano Latino Affairs Council has offered to organizations like this across our state.

Economic development is another key issue that the council has focused on. The council and I have endeavored to ensure that our workforce is highly educated and ready to help cities like Rochester, the fastest growing in the state, to be an economic powerhouse. This focus will continue to keep Minnesota as an ideal location for businesses.

Please accept my full heartened support for Executive Director Garcia and the Chicano Latino Affairs Council. I believe that this council is an excellent example for our state and I look forward to continuing to work with the council in the future.

In your service,

Senator Carla Nelson

Committees: Education, Vice Chair • Agriculture • Capital Investment •
Jobs & Economic Growth • Local Government & Elections
E-Mail: sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn



October 31, 2013

The Honorable Mark Dayton
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton:

The Chicano Latino Affairs Council was especially helpful to the Office of Higher Education in FY 2013. In preparing for the DREAM/Prosperity Act initiative for undocumented students, Director Garcia helped connect us to the Immigrant Law Center. The extensive knowledge and experience of the Immigrant Law Center were very important to the Office of Higher Education in drafting the legislative proposal.

In addition, Director Garcia helped us understand the most credible sources of information on estimates of the number of potential undocumented postsecondary students. That information was important for our development of the fiscal note.

Finally, the council helped spread the word about the DREAM act, which helped us reach the students who will benefit.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Pogenjiler
Commissioner

From: Megan Field [mailto:Megan.Field@ridgewater.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 1:37 PM
To: Ruiz, Elyse (CLAC)
Subject: RE: Thank you!

Good afternoon Elyse:

Thank you for connecting with me. I appreciate that you will be available for support in our efforts to connect the Latino Communities surrounding our campuses to the opportunities here at Ridgewater College.

Something that I would like to see expanded is the Career Exploration course being utilized the semester before attending a full semester at Ridgewater. Not only does this course help acclimate students to the methods of Ridgewater College e.g. grading, technology, schedules etc. but it also allows future students the opportunity to explore career options that are currently unknown to them. Right now, we offer it one time a summer, each campus. Willmar's is coming up on July 8, 2013 and is the underrepresented students only pay the student fee of \$2.36 instead of the normal tuition of \$179.16. This course is taught by our College Counselor. If you can think of ways to get this type of information out to the public for future years, I think this would help in the enrollment and then immediate dropout rates. As I am sure you know, students that go to school with a specific goal in mind tend to be more successful than ones who are unsure of their career aspirations.

Please keep me updated on your future meetings, or if you would ever want to come to Ridgewater College for a tour and information.

Thanks!

Megan Field
Student Success Coordinator
Office: 320-222-5264
Willmar and Hutchinson Campus



From: Roberto Valdez [mailto:Roberto.Valdez@swsc.org]
Sent: Monday, July 08, 2013 10:30 PM
To: Ruiz, Elyse (CLAC)
Subject: RE: Thank you!!

Hola Elyse,

Thanks for the follow-up... it was nice to meet you in person. And you did what you could to try and get some of the people we needed to be there... I hope this is a good start to an ongoing relationship with CLAC and I will take you up on your offer to share with your network some positive outcomes from our work here rural Minnesota... so the Twin Cities knows we exist! ;) The West Central Tribune just did an article on one of our businesses... I will send that over to you to use as you will. It made the front page... its good to show some of the positive contributions Latinos are bringing to MN.

Talk to u soon.

ROBERTO VALDEZ JR.
Program Coordinator
WILLMAR AREA MULTICULTURAL
BUSINESS CENTER (WAM-BC)
215 - 4th Street SW
Willmar, MN 56201

Office: 320-262-3799
Cell: 320-905-3966
Email: roberto.valdez@swsc.org

Check out our website!
WILLMARMARKET.COM

Hector

Thank you for your response to our meeting request. Let's schedule the meeting for Thursday, July 5th 10am-11am. The meeting will be held in the Governor's Reception Room located on the second floor of the State Capitol. Metered street parking is available nearby.

We look forward to a discussion with you on Minnesota's competitiveness. We would like to cover the following topics in our agenda:

I. Please update us on your organizational priorities. What could be helpful to your success?

HG: Education—Latino graduation HS; study MHC, HACER, Adv. Committee and implementation. Collaboration MDE. Economic Development—creating real estate development/construction company owned by Latinos; collaboration with MDLI, MDEED.

II. How do you see your work reflected in the Governor's 7 Priorities for Job Creation (link)?

HG: CLAC as clearing house and bridge of communication/collaboration to provide Latinos access to:

1. Capital (Credit Union/community development bank LEDC, Entrepreneurs Retired Execs, REAP). Better access to all banks' services and programs.
3. Gov't regulations: Better implementation of CLAC Statute 3.9223. Integration of Council into government system through Gov's Cabinet. Overall better communication & collaboration.
4. Infrastructure: MnDOT, Met Council contracts (Latino construction company)
5. Services and reducing cost: Paradigm shift. Improve communication with Latino and other minorities and American Indian community. Partnership spirit.
6. Exports & foreign investment: Latino Corporate Executives Advisory Committee (ad hoc committee for Greater MSP) and REAP. Marketing focus groups among Latinos in MN prior to focus groups in Latin America. Better understanding of Latin America.

2 & 7. Education and employment gap. Paradigm shift. Collaboration MDE, MNSCU, Hennepin Tech and Community Colleges, St. Paul Community College, Metropolitan State University, University Extension, U of M, St. Thomas University. Collaboration with private sector, MDEED, MnDOT, Met Council.

III. What key elements, do you believe, are most critically needed to ensure a strong economic future for Minnesota?

HG: Shifting focus from exclusive debate on tax increase and expense reduction to planning growth; this can provide a less paralyzing space for that debate and disclose unperceived sources of revenue, such as that in the Latino and other immigrant communities. Reducing turf and silo perception.

IV. What are your ideas on ways state government can work faster, smoother and better?

HG: Improved communication and collaboration, especially across different ethnic and organizational cultures. Cultural Complementarity—differences as synergistic and sources of innovation not mutually depleting.

5. Of course we're curious to learn anything else that is on your mind.

Kind Regards,
Robin Sternberg and Kathy Tunheim (and Brandon Toner)
Governor Dayton's Jobs Initiative

Hector:
 Thanks again for your contribution in making the MHC Roundtable successful and a firm future basis for Latino civic enhancement.
 You contribute so much to the improvement of Latino life quality and enrichment!
 With appreciation & respect,
 Manuel B. Fuentes

On Tue, Jan 29, 2013 at 1:07 PM, Martha Erickson <mferick@umn.edu> wrote:
Hector,

Thanks so much for being our guest yesterday on Mom Enough! It was a pleasure to connect with you again and I so appreciated your willingness to help bring our listeners into this important conversation about the achievement gap, the reforms that could reduce that gap, and why we all should care. (Luke, our young producer, said that was the most interesting interview he had recorded for us in 3 years.) Stacy tells me you already called her after yesterday's recording to follow up on our request for the resources you mentioned, so thank you also for that. Our discussion piqued my interest on so many things -- the reports you mentioned, the Finnish schools, the consul who lives across the lake from me and the education minister who visits MN, and, more personally, even a contact to help Erin and me fulfill our dream of spending time in San Miguel de Allende. Most of all, I'm so glad you are still carrying the message of the importance of investing in early childhood education. There definitely seems to be more legislative and business support of that idea today, but we still have a long way to go. I'm always frustrated with the way the public dialogue about the achievement gap slides back into how to change education for older children. But with leaders like you continuing to put early childhood in the center of that conversation, I trust that will continue to shift.

I look forward to connecting with you again, Hector, on those many fronts. And, again, thank you so much for sharing your wisdom and insight with us and our listeners.

Warmest regards,

Marti
Marti Erickson, Ph.D.
Consultant & Director Emerita
Irving B. Harris Training Programs
University of Minnesota

Check out Mom Enough™, a weekly talk show hosted by Marti and her daughter Erin. Available online so you can listen whenever you want, a new show is posted every Monday at www.momEnough.com. If you are a mother, know a mother, or have a mother, we're talking with you!

Governor Dayton and Minnesota State Legislators.

The Minnesota Historical Society just completed a major oral history project documenting the successes, challenges, and contributions of Latinos living throughout the state of Minnesota. The only way that the Minnesota Historical Society could have undertaken such a project was with the help of our partners at CLAC (Chicano Latino Affairs Council). CLAC has advised us on narrators, issues, and topics for our Latino project.

This partnership has completed 42 interviews producing published books for each narrator which total more than 1,300 pages of transcripts and a video project "Latino Business Leaders Defining Success"

The value of these projects is seen on several levels. From a curatorial standpoint the Latino community is underrepresented in our collection and the only significant collection the Society has are these oral histories. Many immigrant communities have no documents, or 3D objects to donate, so oral history is the best way to preserve their history. From an education standpoint, these interviews have already been used in individual History Day projects and will be used in resources for teachers being put together with the Education Department. By cultivating relationships with our partners, the Society gains credibility within these communities which in turn may open doors in the future.

With the "Becoming Minnesotan" website going online in the spring of 2013, these interviews will be able to be accessed by all and tracked to measure how often they are being utilized by the public.

With deepest gratitude.



Ryan K. Barland
Oral History
Minnesota Historical Society



October 19, 2012

Hector Garcia
Executive Director
Chicano Latino Affairs Council
60 Empire Drive, Suite 203
St. Paul, MN 55103

Dear Mr. Garcia:

I am delighted to write this letter of support on behalf of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council's (CLAC) application for a Humanities Center Grant to help you continue your excellent work to close the achievement gap for Latino students in Minnesota.

I am proud of the work that our agencies have done together to promote community and parental engagement and educational programs to assist Latino students. Under your leadership and dedication, the council has been committed to working with schools in order to promote academic achievement for all Latino students.

I strongly support the important work that CLAC does for the citizens of Minnesota.

With admiration,

Dr. Brenda Cassellius
Commissioner

From: Gary Smith [gsmith@raedi.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 11, 2013 2:44 PM
To: Garcia, Hector (CLAC)
Cc: Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC)
Subject: RE: draft Plan Rochester CLAC Latino collaborative

Hector

Sorry for the delayed response. I think this is fine as a conceptual plan. My suggestion for next steps would be to meet with the various organizations (Mayo, City, Chamber, Rochester Schools etc) needed to champion development of a plan, share the concept with them and ask them whether or not they have an interest in partnering on development of the actual plan which will include a list of measurable goals and objectives.

Gary W Smith CEO
President
Rochester Area Economic Development Inc.
220 S Broadway Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55904

(507) 288-0208
www.raedi.com

From: Goodson Miriam [goodson.miriam@co.olinsted.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 5:11 PM
To: Garcia, Hector (CLAC)
Subject: RE: draft Plan Rochester CLAC Latino collaborative

Dear Hector,
I like the proposal and is very inspiring. I am also so glad that Rebeca is hired full time with CLAC. You are a great team of advocates to our community.
Have a wonderful weekend and hope to talk to you soon,
Thanks,

Miriam Goodson

From: Kim Norton [rep.kim.norton@house.mn]
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 2:59 PM
To: Garcia, Hector (CLAC)
Subject: Re: draft Plan Rochester CLAC Latino collaborative

Hector.

This looks exciting! Keep me in the information loop-I'll help in any way I can!

Kim

Sent from my iPhone (Please pardon any typos!)

From: Garcia, Hector (CLAC)
Sent: Friday, May 31, 2013 2:07 PM
To: 'abrede@rochester.mn.gov'; 'dbussell@rochester.mn.gov'; 'jwade@rochester.mnchamber.com'; 'jstrinmoen@rochester.mn.gov'; 'gsmith@raedi.com'; 'mestad.heid1@mayo.edu'; 'mauer.elizabeth@mayo.edu'; 'valdez.soto.miguel@mayo.edu'; 'ballsberry.joyce@gmail.com'; 'Michael Muñoz (mimunoz@rochester.k12.mn.us)'; 'AitAll.Small@mayo.edu'; 'nadia.a.wehde@gmail.com'; 'sen.carla.nelson@senate.mn'; 'goodson.miriam@rochester.k12.mn.us'; 'sen.david.senjem@senate.mn'; 'rep.kim.norton@house.mn'; 'rep.mike.benson@house.mn'; 'rep.kim.norton@house.mn'; 'Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC)'; Goodspeed, Sarah (CLAC)
Cc: 'krystell.escobar@gmail.com'; Sedarski, Rebeca (CLAC); Goodspeed, Sarah (CLAC)
Subject: draft Plan Rochester CLAC Latino collaborative

Hello,

We apologize for taking this long to send you the attached draft for the collaborative plan (and related information), which we promised at our last meeting in Rochester. We would appreciate all edits you might consider necessary so that we can get a consensus before we schedule the next meeting.

Congratulations on the approval of the DMF bill!

Hector Garcia | Executive Director
Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) | www.clacstate.mn.us
60 Empire Drive, Suite 203 | St. Paul, MN 55103
☎ 651.296.2992 Cell 612.998.3014 | 📠 651.297.1297 | ✉ hector.garcia@state.mn.us



November 4, 2013

Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Dayton,

I am writing to share with you the contributions the Chicano Latino Affairs Council (CLAC) has made to our coalition and our community over the past year.

CLAC joined our coalition in mid-March of this year, although Hector Garcia and his staff provided counsel to our leadership for many weeks before formally signing on. Over the course of our relationship, CLAC has provided invaluable insights regarding the characteristics of the Latino community in Minnesota, including how to adjust and connect the model of early learning scholarships tied to quality programs in such a way that it meets their unique needs.

Moreover, CLAC has connected MinneMinds with important community leaders that help our coalition, as well as state agencies, directly connect with Latinos to discuss how quality early learning programs can dramatically impact children and families and work to close the achievement gap for Latinos in Minnesota. The council has been instrumental in convening several information sessions and initiatives to support this work.

Hector Garcia and his staff at CLAC are essential MinneMinds coalition members, providing constant counsel and feedback to ensure that our work helps bring support to not just Latinos but all our most at-risk populations. They are a great asset to us and the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Frank Forsberg

Chair, MinneMinds
Senior Vice President of Systems Change & Innovation
Greater Twin Cities United Way



Letters Of Recognition Report 2013



**Chicano Latino
Affairs Council**
State of Minnesota

Report compiled by the staff of the
Minnesota Chicano Latino Affairs
Council and designed by Latino
Communications Network.

Approved by the Council Board
Members on November 2, 2013

This report covers activities from
July 2012-June 2013 for Fiscal Year
2013

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